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Finance Committee Minutes 09-18-2000

7:30 PM COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING

ATTENDEES:

Phelps* Feinleib Kocur* O'Neill* Mahoney*
 DeCoursey* Villandry Simmons* Mazmanian
 Tosti* Foskett* Deyst* Ronan
 Scoppettuolo* Franclemont* Olsen*
 DuBois* Howard* Fanning* Tosi* Kneeland*

* Indicates present

VISITORS: Assistant Director Planning Dept Kevin O'Brien; Chair Permanent Town Building Committee John Cole

REED'S BROOK: O'Brien provided a handout summarizing the project cost increases and the way he plans to handle the increases. Increases caused by general increase in construction costs due to demand. Bid \$1.5m greater than expected. The next step is a "qualitative risk assessment." O'Brien expects that, based on this study, the DEP will not require a impermeable cap for a saving of \$0.6m. The state reimbursement for the Summer Street drains will be \$0.4m. Most of the rest may be covered by a FEMA grant. Construction is not likely to begin until January. The chair requested a cash requirement estimate for FY01 & 02 to be covered by this year's bond issue.

SCHOOL RENOVATION: Cole provided a coherent verbal review of this project.

Brackett (\$9.5m) opened on schedule last year. \$185k is unencumbered. Some of this is needed to fix the third-floor ventilation duct noise. There are also leaks in the masonry flashing.

Bishop (\$6.25m) opened on time. \$70k remains unencumbered (including transfer from Brackett) but this will likely be needed.

Hardy (\$7.1m) should be finished for next fall. \$6.7m is encumbered. Demolition now starting may uncover unexpected problems. The roof may also need more work than planned. Estimate made when snow on roof. Better cost estimates in November.

Peirce planning begun. Latest cost estimate 33 percent increase. The Permanent Town Building Committee has reduced the building's scope by \$1m, but that is still \$1m high. The building committee is assuring each school same quality as Brackett. At 300 students, the cost is \$150 per square foot. State will reimburse to \$100 per square foot. Selectmen asked to approach state for relief. Current plan will result in 380 to 500 extra seats based on current enrollment. The School Committee has asked superintendent to update enrollment projections.

Dallin planning was begun. Latest cost estimate 20 percent increase. Now on hold.

Thompson and Stratton planning may begin this year.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Last year's officers were re-elected by unanimous voice vote. Al Tosti, chair; Dick Fanning, Charlie Foskett, Gail DuBois, Vice Chairs; Pete Howard, Secretary.

TRANSFERS:

VOTED to transfer from Reserve Fund to Police budget \$5,000 for training. Unanimous.

VOTED to transfer from Reserve Fund to Noise Abatement Committee \$180 for noise meter repair.

Unanimous.

VOTED to transfer from Tip Fee Stabilization Fund (Arlington) to Community Stabilization Fund (NESWC) \$282k to balance books as of June 2000. Unanimous.

Encumbered in Reserve Fund is money for police recruit training and roof repairs to Community Safety Building.

MINUTEMAN: Cambridge is sending at least 70 new freshmen @\$10k. No Choice freshmen this year.

PRELIMINARY FY02 BUDGET: Tosti provided and reviewed the spreadsheet summary budget

(handout). Most items adjusted based on recent info. State aid not changed. Could be frozen by referendum questions.

School increase minimal. Deficit is \$1.4m.

SCHOOLS: Human-rights position filled. Tenth-grade enrollment drop may be caused by MCAS.

Milton claims to have received a special bill for 90-percent construction reimbursement.

OTHER:

Johanna Gurland has resigned. Chair requested nominations from Pct 14.

Tosti reviewed crime records (handout) showing decrease. He and Foskett have visited Ryan to discuss Ryan's plans to hire more officers. The federal grant has not yet been approved.

Peirce Field contamination negotiations continue. Maher does not expect Special Town Meeting this fall.

Association of Town Finance Committees meeting Saturday, Oct. 28, in Westborough. Agenda available.

Source: Peter B Howard, secretary